AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for the automatic installation and configuration of software components (SW) in a computer network (1) which comprises a plurality of client computers (2) and at least one network resource (RES) of installable software components, ~~characterised by~~ comprising the steps of:

a)   provision of a framework (FW) on the network resource (RES) which comprises a rule package (RP) for each of the installable software components (SW) of the network resource (RES) and a list (L) of rule packages (RP) to be run, but not the software components (SW) themselves,

wherein at least one of the rule packages (RP) comprises a routine (4) for loading its software component (SW) from the network resource (RES) and installing it on a client computer (2) and at least this or one of the other rule packages (RP) comprises a routine (5) for configuring its software component (SW) installed on a client computer,

b)   transferring the entire framework (FW) to a client computer (2); and

c)   running the list (L) of rule packages (RP) with installation routines (4) to be run on the client computer (2), calling their installation routines (4), and again running the list (L) of rule packages with configuration routines (5) to be run on the client computer (2), calling their configuration routines (5),

wherein at least step c) is triggered by a local event (16-19) on the particular client

computer (2).

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~

<u>wherein</u> step c) is triggered by a system startup or shutdown, system lock or share, user logon

or logoff, network logon or logoff, program startup or shutdown, connection or disconnection

of hardware or by a timer.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which

successful installation of a software component on a client computer may have as a

prerequisite the presence or absence, configuration or deconfiguration of another software

component, ~~characterised in that~~ <u>wherein</u>,

in step a), the framework (FW) comprises a detector (DET) for each possible

prerequisite and at least one of the rule packages (RP) comprises a routine (4') for deinstalling

its software component from a client computer (2) and at least this or one of other rule

packages (RP) comprises a routine (5') for undoing ~~(deconfiguring)~~ the configuration of its

software component (SW) on a client computer (2), and,

in step c), if in the course of a rule package (RP) it is established by means of a

detector (DET) that the presence or absence, configuration or deconfiguration of another

software component (SW) is necessary, the installation or deinstallation routine,

configuration or deconfiguration routine (4, 4', 5, 5') of the rule package (RP) assigned to this

other software component (SW) is called.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 1 ~~to 3~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the framework ~~(FW)~~ also comprises detectors ~~(DETHW,~~

~~DETBS1)~~ for a client computer's ~~(2)~~ hardware or operating system and, in the course of a

routine ~~(4, 4', 5, 5')~~, it is verified by means of such a detector whether the client computer ~~(2)~~

is suitable for the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of

the software component ~~(SW)~~.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 1 ~~to 4~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein, in the course of a routine ~~(4, 4', 5, 5')~~, it is checked in advance

whether the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of the

software component ~~(SW)~~ has already taken place on the client computer ~~(2)~~ and, if so, the

routine is immediately terminated.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 1 ~~to 5~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein step b) and/or step c) is also triggered by a remote event on the

network resource, preferably the transmission of a group or broadcast message.

7.   (Currently Amended) A rule package which is executable on an operating

system of a client computer ~~(2)~~ for the automatic installation and configuration of software

components ~~(SW)~~, which are available on a network resource ~~(RES)~~, on the client computer

~~(2), characterised in that~~ wherein the rule package ~~(RP)~~ comprises a reference ~~(RES_A)~~ to a

software component on the network resource ~~(RES)~~ and comprises at least one of the

following four routines: a routine ~~(4)~~ for installing this software component ~~(SW)~~ on the

client computer ~~(2)~~, a routine ~~(4')~~ for deinstalling this software component ~~(SW)~~ from the

client computer ~~(2)~~, a routine ~~(5)~~ for configuring said software component ~~(SW)~~ installed on

the client computer (2), and a routine (5') for undoing (deconfiguring) the configuration of

this software component (SW) installed on the client computer (2), wherein each routine (4,

4', 5, 5'), if it establishes a presence or absence requirement of another software component

(SW), branches to the installation or deinstallation routine (4, 4') of another rule package (RP)

assigned to this other software component (SW).

8.   (Currently Amended) A rule package according to claim 7, characterised in

that wherein it comprises a reference (DET_HW, DET_BS) to a client computer's (2) specific

hardware and/or operating system and, by means of this reference, verifies whether the client

computer (2) is suitable for the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or

deconfiguration of the software component (SW).

9.   (Currently Amended) A rule package according to claim 7 or claim 8,

characterised in that wherein it verifies whether the particular installation, deinstallation,

configuration or deconfiguration of the software component (SW) on the client computer (2)

has already occurred and, if so, terminates its execution.

10.   (Currently Amended) A rule package according to any one of claim[s] 7 to 9,

characterised in that wherein it contains at least one trigger reference (TRIG) to a local event

(16-19) on the client computer (2), wherein the trigger reference (TRIG) assigns at least one

of the routines (4, 4', 5, 5') of the rule package to this event.

11.   (Currently Amended) A rule package according to any one of claim[s] 7 to 10,

characterised in that wherein it further contains at least one trigger reference (TRIG) to a

remote event on the network resource, wherein the trigger reference (TRIG) assigns at least one of the routines (4, 4', 5, 5') of the rule package to this event.

12.   (Currently Amended) A rule package according to any one of claim[s] 7 to 11, characterised in that wherein it may be put in an inactive state in which only its deinstallation and deconfiguration routines (4', 5') can be called.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer which is programmed with at least one rule package according to any one of claim[s] 7 to 12.

14.   (Currently Amended) A framework which may be provided on a network resource (RES) in a computer network (1) for a plurality of client computers (2) for the automatic installation and configuration on the client computers (2) of software components (SW) available on the network resource (RES), wherein successful installation of a software component (SW) may have as a prerequisite the presence or absence of another software component (SW), characterised in that wherein the framework (FW) comprises a set of rule packages (RP) according to any one of claim[s] 7 to 12, a set of detectors (DET) for each possible prerequisite, and a list (L) of rule packages (RP) to be run on the client computers (2).

15.   (Currently Amended) A framework according to claim 14 in conjunction with a rule package according to claim 8 that comprises a reference to a client computer's specific hardware and/or operating system and, by means of this reference, verifies whether the client computer is suitable for the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of the software component, characterised in that wherein the framework

(FW) also comprises detectors (DETHW, DETBS1) for a client computer's (2) hardware or operating system and provides the rule packages (RP) for the stated verification.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer which is programmed with a framework according to claim 14 or claim 15.

17.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable data storage medium which is programmed with a framework according to claim 14 or claim 15.

18.   (Currently Amended) A client program which is executable on a client computer (2) for the automatic installation and configuration of software components (SW), which are available on a network resource (RES), on the client computer (2), characterised in that wherein it receives and stores a framework (FW) according to claim 14 or claim 15, in a first pass runs the list (L) of rule packages (RP) to be run, calling their installation routines (4), and in a second pass runs the list (L) of rule packages (RP) to be run, calling their configuration routines (5).

19.   (Currently Amended) A client program according to claim 18, characterised in that wherein it comprises a local database (DB) which contains a list (7) of rule packages (RP) with installation routines (4) which have run successfully and a list (8) of rule packages (RP) with configuration routines (5) which have run successfully.

20.   (Currently Amended) A client program according to claim 19, characterised in that wherein it compares the rule packages (RP) entered in the lists (7, 8) with the rule packages (RP) contained in the framework (FW) and, for those rule packages (RP) which do

not appear in the framework (FW), runs their deconfiguration routines (5') in a first pass and their deinstallation routines (4') in a second pass.

21.   (Currently Amended) A client program according to any one of claim[s] 18 to 20, in conjunction with a rule package according to claim 10 which is executable on an operating system of a client computer for the automatic installation and configuration of software components, which are available on a network resource, on the client computer, the rule package comprising a reference to a software component on the network resource and comprising at least one of the following four routines: a routine for installing this software component on the client computer, a routine for deinstalling this software component from the client computer, a routine for configuring said software component installed on the client computer, and a routine for undoing the configuration of this software component installed on the client computer, wherein each routine, if it establishes a presence or absence requirement of another software component, branches to the installation or deinstallation routine of another rule package assigned to this other software component, the rule package further containing at least one trigger reference to a local event on the client computer, wherein the trigger reference assigns at least one of the routines of the rule package to this event, characterised in that wherein the program it monitors the occurrence of a local event (16-19) on the client computer (2), preferably a system startup or shutdown, system lock or share, user logon or logoff, network logon or logoff, program startup or shutdown, connection or disconnection of hardware or response of a timer, and calls the corresponding rule package (RP) routine (4, 4', 5, 5') which is assigned via the trigger reference (TRIG) to said event.

22.   (Currently Amended) A client program according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 18 ~~to

20~~, in conjunction with a rule package ~~according to claim 11~~ which is executable on an

operating system of a client computer for the automatic installation and configuration of

software components, which are available on a network resource, on the client computer, the

rule package comprising a reference to a software component on the network resource and

comprising at least one of the following four routines: a routine for installing this software

component on the client computer, a routine for deinstalling this software component from

the client computer, a routine for configuring said software component installed on the client

computer, and a routine for undoing the configuration of this software component installed on

the client computer, wherein each routine, if it establishes a presence or absence requirement

of another software component, branches to the installation or deinstallation routine of

another rule package assigned to this other software component, the rule package further

containing at least one trigger reference to a remote event on the network resource, wherein

the trigger reference assigns at least one of the routines of the rule package to this event,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the program ~~it~~ further monitors the occurrence of a remote event

on the network resource, preferably the transmission of a group or broadcast message, and

calls the corresponding rule package ~~(RP)~~ routine ~~(4, 4', 5, 5')~~ which is assigned via the

trigger reference ~~(TRIG)~~ to this event.

23.   (Currently Amended) A client program according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 18 ~~to

22, characterised in that~~ wherein it comprises a transaction system for each system-modifying

component, in particular for the rule packages ~~(RP)~~.

24.   (Currently Amended) A computer which is programmed with a client program

according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 18 ~~to 23~~.

25.   (Currently Amended) A computer program implementing a method according

~~any one of~~ claim[s] 1 ~~to 6~~.